to the mandate of the Ministry, has been part of the Ministry's normal activity.

Ganga Action Plan

200. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any factories discharging untreated effluents into the Ganga basin have been or are being served with notice to set things right ; as the Ganga Action Plan enters its Second phase ; and

(b) if so, details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) 68 gross polluting industries have been identified as discharging their effluents in Ganga River. These industries have been asked to set up effluent treatment facilities and the progress in this regard is being monitored regularly. 43 units have set up Effluent Treatment Plants so far while 7 units are in the process of setting up effluent treatment facilities. Prosecutions have been launched against 8 units after they failed to comply with directives/notices issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. 10 units have been closed down for not providing any effluent treatment facilities.

National Environment Commission

201. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM :
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Environment Commission ;

(b) if so, the purpose and objective for setting up such a Commission ;

(c) whether the environmental laws would be strengthened by the proposed commission for its effective implementation ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) The matter is under examination.

Primary Health Centres in Assam

202. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres constructed by the Government of Assam in the last AGP regime under Health for All by 2000 A.D. scheme ; and

(b) the number of PHCs which have been completed and have started functioning and the number of PHCs which are under construction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) 203 PHCs were constructed by the Government of Assam during last AGP regime under the Health for All by 2000 A.D.

(b) So far 442 PHCs have been constructed and started functioning. 57 PHCs are under construction.

Controlling Leprosy in Bihar

203. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of patients suffering from Kala Azar and

Laprosy has increased manifold in Bihar in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken to provide medical help to stop spreading of Kala Azar and Leprosy in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The number of patients suffering from Kala-azar has increased considerably in Bihar in recent years as per reports received from the State Government of Bihar as under :—

Year	Number of cases
1989	30,903
1990	54,650
1991 (Prov.)	59,292
1992 (upto February Prov.)	4,341

There has been no increase in the number of patients suffering from Leprosy.

(c) The following specific assistance is being provided to the Government of Bihar for the control of Kala-azar :—

(i) Supply of required quantity of DDT.

(ii) Adequate supply of Pentamidine Isothionate used for treatment of resistant cases.

(ii) Reimbursement of the cost of Sodium Stibo Gluconate to the State Government of Bihar.

During 1991-92 a total assistance of Rs. 1602.27 lakhs (Cash Grant Rs. 102.27 lakhs and Commodity Grant Rs. 1500.00 lakhs) has been provided to the Government of Bihar for control of Kala-azar.

LEPROSY—National Leprosy Control Programme is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Programme. Under the programme, treatment of Leprosy cases with combination of drugs is being extended to leprosy cases district by district in a phased manner. A special health education campaign has been mounted and steps have been initiated to provide adequate medical and physical re-habilitation of leprosy patients.

Steps for Preventing Mouth Cancer

204. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the habit of chewing tobacco in Paan and Khaini is responsible for the alarming rise of mouth cancer in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to put a ban on the manufacture and sale of Tobacco for chewing purposes in the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to prevent cases of mouth cancer in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The use of tobacco especially chewing is the most important cause of oral cancer. However the data collected under National Cancer Registry Programme of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi do not indicate any increase in the incident of oral cancer over the year.